

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of April 17, 2006**

- 1. Gym Funding Discussion:** The Montgomery County Council's Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee will meet on Monday, April 24 at 8 am to discuss a number of items, one of which is a proposal to provide funding for the proposed Takoma Park Community Center gymnasium. Councilmember Silverman is advocating for providing \$360,000 to Takoma Park from the County's FY07 Operating Budget. *(Community & Government Liaison)*
- 2. Transit Center Public Hearing:** There will be a Planning Board public hearing on Thursday, April 27 at 1 pm regarding the plans for a bus transit center at the intersection of University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue (at the site of the current Taco Bell). Information on the proposal should be available on Monday on the Planning Board's web site, www.mc-mncppc.org/board/agenda/agenda.pdf. *(Community & Government Liaison)*
- 3. Taping the Council in School:** City TV staff used the MCPS van to video tape the Council meeting on Monday April 17 at Takoma Park Middle School. The tape was aired on City TV-13 at midnight following the meeting, and was also streamed live on the web site at that time. On Tuesday following the meeting, the archive was available on the web site, and the meeting was replayed on cable at the normal times of 10 AM and 8 pm Wednesday, and noon on Friday. The same is planned for the next two meetings on April 24 and May 1. *(City TV)*
- 4. The Horticultural Club on TV:** City TV crews will be covering the Takoma Horticultural Club's 90th Anniversary events scheduled this Saturday, April 22. *(City TV)*
- 5. Student Clean-Up Drive:** Approximately 500 students (grades 5-12), teachers, and parents will pick up trash along University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue on Monday morning, April 24. Schools participating are John Nevins Andrews Elementary, Sligo Elementary, and Takoma Academy. Please drive carefully when you see the students at work! *(Community & Government Liaison)*
- 6. Conversion of Rental Facility to Group Home (Ward 1):** Montgomery County Housing inspected and confirmed that 7119 Carroll Avenue, an 11 unit rooming house previously licensed by Takoma Park, has been converted to an "owner occupied group home." By Takoma Park Code definition, the house does not require a rental license and must be occupied by the owner and no more than 5 unrelated individuals. The rented rooms may not have individual cooking facilities, but may share the owner's facilities. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 7. Takoma Park Emergency Assistance Program (City-wide):** This week, the Office on Landlord-Tenant Affairs coordinated with the Finance Office in sending notices to residents about the Takoma Park Emergency Assistance Program. A request for donations was included with the information with a reminder that donations to the program are tax deductible. *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. **Landlord-Tenant Affairs Website (City-wide):** Landlord-Tenant staff has completed an extensive review and revision of the landlord-tenant information that is currently on the City's website. In the next couple of weeks, this new information, which includes updated fact sheets, a new model lease, plus links to county services will be added to the site. Please let us know what you think. *(Housing and Community Development)*
9. **Affordable Housing Program (City-wide):** Members of the Home Buying Club will celebrate their completion of the one-year program on Tuesday May 2, 2006. The club has offered an opportunity for its members to obtain a wide assortment of information on FirstTime Home Buying process and opportunities in Montgomery County. Participants in the program will receive a HUD certificate of completion, which makes them eligible to receive county sponsored low interest mortgages and closing costs grants. The City will next be sponsoring a Home Buying Club that will be available to Spanish speaking residents. The Club will start in the Fall of 2006. For further information, please call 301.891.7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*
10. **DHCD Catalyst Training:** A City staff member from the Department of Housing and Community Development attended a series of economic development workshops earlier this week. The workshops were held by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and included information on state programs for small business financing, business retention plans and area revitalization strategies. *(Housing and Community Development)*
11. **Affordable Housing Forum (City-wide):** Please mark your calendars for the 2006 Affordable Housing Forum. The forum, cosponsored by the City of Takoma Park, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the Washington Area Housing Trust, will be held on Tuesday, May 23 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center. Topics to be considered in the discussion include building support for the preservation of affordable multi-family housing, land trusts, and affordable housing trust funds. Experts from across the region will be participating in the planned panel discussions. *(Housing and Community Development)*
12. **Volunteers Needed in Old Takoma (Ward 1 and 3):** The Old Takoma Business Association and the Main Street Design Committee will be hosting a "clean-up" in the Old Takoma area on Saturday, May 6, 2006. Help tear down flyers, pick up trash, plant, and otherwise spruce up the area. Volunteers should meet at one of three locations - 4th and Blair, Laurel and Carroll Avenue, or Takoma Junction - at 9:00 am on May 6th. *(Housing and Community Development)*
13. **Officers in a Meeting (Ward 2):** Capt. Coursey and D/Cpl. John attended a residents meeting in the Forest Park area, learning of a variety of issues regarding crime and safety issues. A number of assignments have been made based on the residents' concerns. *(Police)*
14. **New Officer:** Ofc. Chris Eckford was sworn in as an officer Monday evening and assigned to Squad 2 for field training. *(Police)*

15. Officers in Training (Wards 2, 3, & 6): Sgt. Hammond is assisting in entry-level EVOC (emergency vehicle operations) training with the Maryland Police Training Commission this week. Cpl. Largent and K-9 Shadow attended monthly canine training. All investigators attended training, offered by the County police's pawn shop unit, on pawn shop tracking software. Two detectives attended an interjurisdictional meeting of investigators related to recent serial carjackings and robberies, which will continue with regular information sharing. A detective attended the International Corridor C-SAFE HEAT team meeting, which brings together police, parole, probation and other agencies. *(Police)*

16. Warrant Obtained (Ward 4): A warrant was obtained for an adult male related to child sexual assault that had occurred over time (victim and suspect are related) in the 7700 block of Maple Avenue. *(Police)*

17. Police Awards: The Awards Committee (Chief Creamer, Lt. Cipperly, Sgt. Gilbert, Ofc. Gaskin, Ms. Cole) completed its deliberations of awards for calendar 2005 with the following results: Officer of the Year, Cpl. Rick Cannatella; Meritorious Service (conspicuous bravery in the line of duty), Ofc. Stanley McLean; Supervisor of the Year, Sgt. Rick Bowers; Unit Citation, Squad 1; Civilian of the Year, C. Bannerman; and Command Recognition to Diana Dean, Angelina Guarini, Linda Rettberg, D/Sgt. Collington and Det. Conrad. Details to be announced regarding the annual police awards dinner. Cpl. Cannatella attended the Takoma Park Lions Club dinner on Tuesday, accompanied by Chief Creamer and Capt. Coursey. *(Police)*

18. Library Poem Event: Last night's 8th Annual Favorite Poem event, co-sponsored by the Library, the Friends of the Library and the Columbia Union College English Department, and hosted by Takoma Park Poet Laureate Don Berger, was attended by 40 people, including about 20 readers. Held in the Library's Children's Room, the enthusiastic gathering applauded the selections, enjoyed the intimate location and the refreshments, and expressed wishes to repeat the event more frequently. *(Library)*

19. Goodbye, Jillian: Children's Services Coordinator Jillian Hershberger is leaving the Library staff in July, after serving for 18 years in her present capacity, and prior to that as shelver and Reference Librarian. Jillian will be moving to Santa Fe. Expect to hear more as her departure draws near! Meanwhile, the Library is actively recruiting for a new Children's Services Coordinator. *(Library)*

20. Friends of the Library News:

- Flash Drives: Flash drives are available at the Library for \$20, through the Friends of the Library. Proceeds go to the Library in the form of gifts from the Friends.

- Officers of the Board: Following the Friends annual meeting at the end of March, Rebekah Zanditon was elected as the new Board President, Sonja Kueppers will continue to serve on the Board as Vice President, and Sara Criscitelli and Laura Barclay were newly elected as Members at Large. Dee Raff was re-elected as Secretary. Recognized for their contributions as they departed from the Board were Jim Sebastian, Claudine Schweber, Ahmed Martinez and Mary Drake.

- The Reading Club: The Friends next reading club gathering will be held in the Library on May 31st. Copies of "The Known World" by Edward Jones, selected by the group for this discussion, are available for checkout in the Library.
- Book Sale: The Friends' next book sale will be held on the Library lawn on Saturday May 27th. From 10 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.